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Consumer Price Index, South Region – December 2016

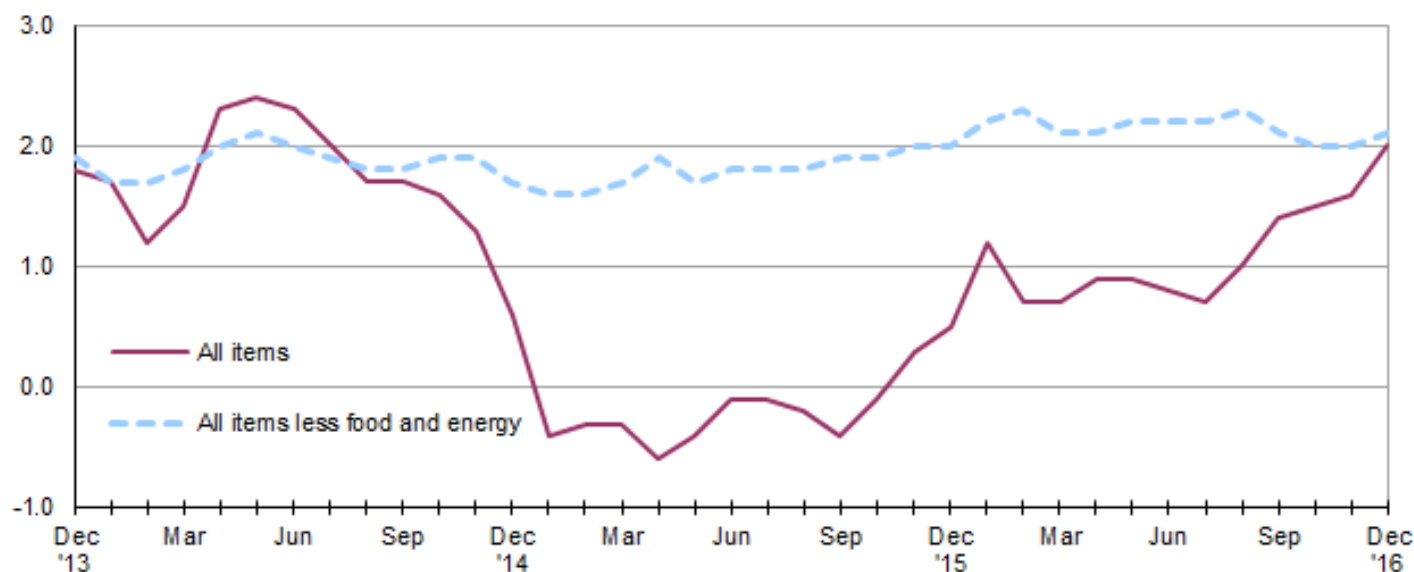
Prices up 0.1 percent over the month and 2.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South inched up 0.1 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index rose 1.4 percent over the month. The food index inched down 0.1 percent, while the all items less food and energy index was unchanged in December. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U advanced 2.0 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.1 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, December 2013–December 2016

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched down 0.1 percent in December, led by a decline in the food at home index (-0.4 percent). The food away from home index edged up 0.3 percent over the month.

The food index declined 0.3 percent over the year. The food at home index fell 1.9 percent since December 2015, while the food away from home index was up 1.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.4 percent in December, led by price increases for motor fuel (2.9 percent) and electricity (0.1 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service declined over-the-month, down 0.7 percent.

From December 2015—December 2016, energy prices advanced 5.2 percent, reflecting price increases for motor fuel (11.9 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (8.0 percent). Since December 2015, prices for electricity declined 1.1 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in December. Price increases for shelter (0.2 percent) and other goods and services (0.3 percent), were largely offset by price declines for apparel (-2.9 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Since December 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.1 percent—led by increases in shelter (2.9 percent) and medical care (4.6 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February.....	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March.....	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April.....	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9
May.....	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9
June.....	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8
July.....	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7
August.....	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0
September.....	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4
October.....	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5
November.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6
December.....	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0

The Consumer Price Index for January 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately

24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	234.337	234.029	234.204	2.0	-0.1	0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	380.128	379.627	379.912	-	-	-
Food and beverages	246.050	245.788	245.520	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Food	247.297	247.037	246.747	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
Food at home	236.767	236.182	235.233	-1.9	-0.6	-0.4
Food away from home.....	265.836	266.057	266.747	1.8	0.3	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	228.258	227.962	228.026	1.0	-0.1	0.0
Housing	227.449	227.337	227.697	2.2	0.1	0.2
Shelter	260.226	260.571	261.061	2.9	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	268.955	269.896	270.779	3.5	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	262.428	263.060	263.599	2.8	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	262.417	263.050	263.588	2.8	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	228.479	226.832	226.973	0.7	-0.7	0.1
Household energy	184.770	182.759	182.833	0.1	-1.0	0.0
Energy services(1)	185.252	183.105	183.116	0.0	-1.2	0.0
Electricity(1).....	183.807	180.696	180.898	-1.1	-1.6	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	179.609	184.137	182.862	8.0	1.8	-0.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.665	120.947	121.013	-0.4	-0.5	0.1
Apparel	139.363	136.965	132.997	2.1	-4.6	-2.9
Transportation	197.032	196.260	197.939	3.9	0.5	0.9
Private transportation	195.115	194.158	196.169	4.2	0.5	1.0
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	101.834	101.580	101.741	-0.5	-0.1	0.2
New vehicles	152.471	152.913	153.638	0.4	0.8	0.5
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	103.841	104.144	104.653	0.5	0.8	0.5
New cars(4)	152.259	152.901	153.872	0.3	1.1	0.6
Used cars and trucks.....	140.499	138.408	138.051	-3.3	-1.7	-0.3
Motor fuel	192.419	185.917	191.344	11.9	-0.6	2.9
Gasoline (all types).....	191.516	184.951	190.368	12.0	-0.6	2.9
Unleaded regular(4)	186.837	180.168	185.594	12.3	-0.7	3.0
Unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	211.713	205.061	210.919	11.2	-0.4	2.9
Unleaded premium(4).....	210.816	205.984	210.550	10.9	-0.1	2.2
Medical care	448.472	448.405	448.393	4.6	0.0	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	366.759	364.936	364.080	5.7	-0.7	-0.2
Medical care services.....	475.525	476.165	476.493	4.2	0.2	0.1
Professional services	366.426	367.724	368.037	2.6	0.4	0.1
Recreation(3).....	116.389	116.476	116.351	0.4	0.0	-0.1
Education and communication(3).....	136.266	136.608	136.085	-0.7	-0.1	-0.4
Other goods and services	416.906	417.433	418.568	2.1	0.4	0.3
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	234.337	234.029	234.204	2.0	-0.1	0.1
Commodities	180.964	179.728	179.734	0.9	-0.7	0.0
Commodities less food and beverages	150.048	148.456	148.572	1.7	-1.0	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	194.275	191.416	191.577	4.5	-1.4	0.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	228.846	225.666	228.060	5.3	-0.3	1.1
Durables	108.745	108.172	108.248	-1.7	-0.5	0.1
Services.....	288.084	288.667	289.007	2.7	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter(2).....	267.094	267.453	267.954	2.9	0.3	0.2
Transportation services	329.382	333.871	334.999	5.2	1.7	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016
Other services	338.439	339.542	339.068	1.0	0.2	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.646	222.329	222.512	1.8	-0.1	0.1
All items less food	232.111	231.795	232.042	2.4	0.0	0.1
All items less shelter.....	225.297	224.716	224.763	1.6	-0.2	0.0
Commodities less food	152.471	150.905	151.020	1.7	-1.0	0.1
Nondurables	218.802	217.186	217.142	1.9	-0.8	0.0
Nondurables less food.....	195.986	193.264	193.420	4.3	-1.3	0.1
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	227.699	224.766	226.961	5.0	-0.3	1.0
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	323.480	324.366	324.513	2.5	0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	271.203	271.774	272.110	2.5	0.3	0.1
Energy	184.284	180.329	182.769	5.2	-0.8	1.4
All items less energy	240.703	240.795	240.722	1.8	0.0	0.0
All items less food and energy	239.956	240.109	240.074	2.1	0.0	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.302	147.385	146.754	0.0	-1.0	-0.4
Energy commodities.....	195.691	189.332	194.807	11.7	-0.5	2.9
Services less energy services	298.926	299.819	300.196	2.9	0.4	0.1

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.